

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 8-11 and 15 are amended. No new matter is presented.

Claims 1-4, 8 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Umebayashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,515,765. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, recites “a receiving portion receiving output form instruction information from said external device, the output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output form of said image data and being specified by said image-related information.” This feature is not taught or suggested by Umebayashi.

Umebayashi discloses presenting a list view of image data to a user and transmitting the user’s selection of image data to an image data management 8 to print the image data. Umebayashi, col. 5, lines 27-38. However, the selection of image data by the user, which the Examiner presumably compares to the claimed “output form instruction information,” merely specifies identification information (i.e., registration number) of the selected image and does not include any ***instructions*** relating to an ***output form of the selected image***. Thus, Umebayashi fails to anticipate claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore allowable.

Claims 8 and 11 recite similar features as claim 1 and are also allowable. Claims 2-4 and 12-14 are allowable for their respective dependencies from an allowable claim.

Claims 5-7, 9-10 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umebayashi in view of Phillips, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0205504. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5, as amended, recites “an operation portion accepting a user input designating an external device as a sending destination of an abbreviated image to be prepared from said image data.” This feature is not taught or suggested by Umebayashi or Phillips, individually or in combination.

In both Umebayashi and Phillips, the user himself is the designated recipient of the image data. Specifically, in Umebayashi's system, a list of stored images is transmitted to the user's browser in response to a request for the print data from the user's browser. Thus, the user is the designated recipient in Umebayashi. In Phillips' system, thumbnail of an image registered in a server or an external image memory device of the server side are displayed to a user of the system. Thus, once again, the user is the designated recipient in Phillips. Neither of these references teach or suggest that the user designates an "external device as a sending destination" or that such information is received by an operation portion of the system. Thus, the combination of Umebayashi and Phillips fails to teach this feature.

Accordingly, claim 5 is allowable. Claim 9 recites a similar feature as claim 5 and is also allowable. Claims 6, 7 and 10 are allowable for their respective dependencies from an allowable claim.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite "said sending portion sending output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output from of said image data held in said image forming apparatus." As discussed above with reference to claim 1, this feature is not taught or suggested by Umebayashi. Phillips does not overcome this deficiency of Umebayashi. Thus, claim 15 is allowable.

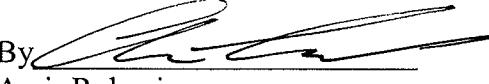
In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no.
325772033300.

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